

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRASIL 08253 191825Z

64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 191710Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1606

S E C R E T BRASILIA 8253

EXDIS

FOL TEL RCVD FROM SECSTATE 12 SEP 75 SENT ACTION PARIS LONDON ROME
BRASILIA THE HAGUE OSLO MADRID INFO LISBON BEING RPTD FOR YOUR INFO
QUOTE
STATE 216910

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO
SUBJECT: GENERAL SPINOLA AND THE PORTUGUESE EXILES

REF: LISBON 5334 (NOTAL)

1. CERTAIN PORTUGUESE EXILE GROUPS IN SPAIN AND BRAZIL HAVE
NOW COALESCED AROUND THE NOMINAL LEADERSHIP OF FORMER
PRESIDENT ANTONIO SPINOLA AND HAVE FORMED THE
POLITICALLY CONSERVATIVE (BUT NOT ULTRA-RIGHT) ORGANIZATION
KNOWN AS THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF
PORTUGAL -- MDLP. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS AND STATEMENTS
BY SOME PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS, THE MDLP MAY BE PLANNING
IMMINENT ACTION OF SOME KIND IN PORTUGAL.

2. THE US IS NOT PRIVY TO THE PLANS OF THE MDLP OR THE
DIMENSIONS OF ITS FINANCIAL SUPPORT OR MILITARY
CAPABILITIES. WE AGREE, HOWEVER, WITH AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI'S
ASSESSMENT THAT ACTION IN PORTUGAL AT THIS TIME IS PROBABLY
DOOMED TO FAILURE. SPINOLA HAS FREQUENTLY MISREAD THE
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DEGREE OF SUPPORT HE ENJOYS BOTH AMONG THE PORTUGUESE

PEOPLE AND PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES.
ANY MDLP ACTION IN PORTUGAL (AND EVEN POSSIBLY OUTSIDE
PORTUGAL) IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES COULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS
OF THE COMMUNISTS AND RADICAL LEFTISTS, THUS UNDERMINING THE
POLITICAL GAINS WHICH THE SO CALLED PORTUGUESE
"MODERATES" SEEM TO HAVE MADE DURING THE PAST WEEK.

3. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON
THE SUBJECT OF PORTUGAL, ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD MAKE
CLEAR TO THEM THE U.S. VIEW ON SPINOLA STATED IN
PARA 2. KISSINGER
UNQUOTE
JOHNSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, EXILES, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRASIL08253
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750326-0337
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750932/aaaabckv.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 LISBON 5334
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL SPINOLA AND THE PORTUGUESE EXILES
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, MDLP, DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR LIB OF PORT, (SPINOLA, ANTONIO)
To: RIO DE JANEIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006